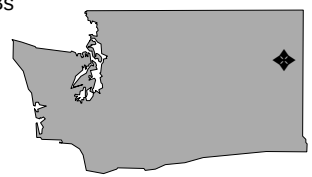
Fairchild Air Force Base NPL

Size: 4,300 acres
Mission: Provide aerial refueling and airlift services
HRS Score: 31.98; placed on NPL in March 1989
IAG Status: IAG signed in 1990
Contaminants: Solvents, fuels, electroplating chemicals, cleaning solutions, corrosives, photographic chemicals, paints, thinners, pesticide residues, and PCBs
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $34.2 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $34.6 million (FY2026)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites: FY2003



Spokane County, Washington

Restoration Background

Environmental studies since FY85 have identified 37 sites at the installation, including contaminated fire training areas, landfills, radioactive waste sites, spill sites, waste pits, disposal pits, and ditches.

In FY92, Interim Actions included removal of 1,600 cubic yards of soil contaminated with fuels and oils. Drinking water was provided to members of the local community to replace drinking water contaminated by trichloroethene (TCE) leaching from a landfill (Craig Road Landfill). By FY93, the installation had identified 30 sites and completed Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) activities at 8 sites. The Air Force signed two Records of Decision (RODs). Two sites required no further action, two required long-term monitoring (LTM) or institutional controls, and four required cleanup.

In FY94, the installation completed Remedial Designs (RDs) for two sites, began RD at a third site, and started construction on a Remedial Action (RA) at a base landfill. The installation participated in bioventing technology and intrinsic remediation initiatives by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.

In FY95, the installation formed a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). It also completed construction of a landfill cap and expansion of an extraction and treatment system to contain a TCE-contaminated groundwater plume at the Craig Road Landfill. Construction of a new groundwater extraction and treatment system to contain a TCE-contaminated plume at a wastewater lagoon site (WW-1) also began. The installation began a Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection (PA/SI) for nine areas of concern (AOCs) and the two remaining original sites.

The installation completed an RI/FS for 20 sites in FY96, and the Air Force signed a ROD for the sites. The installation put the wastewater lagoon treatment plant into operation. RA construction began at a former fire training area, a TCE-contaminated ditch, and a spill area at the Bulk Fuel Storage Site. Because of contamination identified during the PA/SI, seven AOCs were transferred to the Installation Restoration Program. In FY97, groundwater air-sparging and soil bioventing systems were implemented at the former fire training area. The final Public Health Assessment report was released by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The final report, which followed a year-long review, validated the base's past and current cleanup program. RAB and community input into the process was critical in FY97.

FY98 Restoration Progress

In cooperation with EPA and the state, the installation initiated a five-year review of all active remedial sites. Monitoring and operational data were examined to ensure that the sites' selected remedies provide protection to the environment and human health. LTM and operations and maintenance (O&M) continue for two pump-and-treat plants at WW-1 and CRL. The basewide and off-base residential well sampling program also continues.

Fieldwork began for groundwater data gathering at TCE orphan plumes to support natural attenuation of chlorinated solvents. Construction and Interim Removal Actions were completed at the wastewater lagoons (plume edge work), a POL bulk storage area, a waste storage area, waste fuel operations, a fuel transfer facility, arsenic ditches and culverts, and the former fire training area.

Delisting of portions of the installation from the National Priorities List (NPL) was delayed after negotiations with EPA determined that the entire installation should be delisted as a unit. The ROD for nine sites and two AOCs also was delayed. Investigations for a preferred alternative for two of these sites (SS-39 and SD-37) are still under way.

Plan of Action

- Achieve final consensus on natural attenuation of chlorinated solvents at TCE orphan plumes and oil-water separator site in FY99
- Start work on a ROD for nine sites and two AOCs in FY99
- Continue LTM and O&M for groundwater treatment plants, groundwater air sparging, soil bioventing systems, and basewide groundwater sampling in FY99

FY99 Funding by Phase and Relative Risk